

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9972

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6100

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR APRIL 10, 1973

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO BEING REPEATED

CAN THO 0158

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MARR, VS, ID CA

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR APRIL 10 , 1973

1. SUMMARY: ENEMY INITIATED ACTIVITY CONTINUES AT A RELATIVE HIGH LEVEL. THE PRESSURE IN THE HONG NGU/ TAN CHAU AREA IS DOWN. THE RE- DEPLOYMENT OF CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS TO HONG NGU IS AWAITING FINAL APPROVAL. A JMC HELICOPTER WAS FORCED DOWN IN CHUONG THIEN, AND ICCS HELICOPTERS IN REGION VII HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY GROUNDED. THE PACIFICATION WAR IN BA XUYEN IS CONTINUING IN AND NEAR VC BASE AREAS. THE VINH LONG PROVINCE CHIEF FEELS THAT LAST WEEK' S UPSURGE IN VC ACTIVITY WAS RELATED TO PRESIDENT THIEU' S US VISIT. END SUMMARY .

2. SECURITY SITUATION: SEVENTY- THREE VC INITIATED INCIDENTS OCCURRED APRIL 9. RVNAF CASUALTIES REMAINED RELATIVELY HIGH WITH 13 KIA AND 82 WIA. VC CASUALTIES WERE 24 KIA. CHUONG THIEN AND DINH TUONG WERE THE SCENES OF MOST ACTIVITY. NVA ACTIVITY IN THE HONG NGU/

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TAN CHAU AREA CONSISTED MOSTLY OF ATTACKS BY FIRE AND WAS LESS SEVERE THAN LAST WEEK. TAN CHAU RECEIVED FIVE ROUNDS OF 82 MM MORTAR. THE NVA/ VC ALSO SHELLED SEVERAL OUTPOSTS NEAR HONG NGU.

3. JMC: HOSTILE GROUND FIRE FORCED DOWN A JMC HELICOPTER CARRYING VI THANH GVN JMC PERSONNEL, SEVEN KILOMETERS NW OF VI THANH APRIL 9. (CAN THO 0155 AND 0152). ONE ARVN SGT WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED. AN ICCS HELICOPTER ACCOMPANYING THE DOWNED AIRCRAFT RECEIVED NO FIRE. VNAF HELICOPTERS SUBSEQUENTLY PICKED UP THE DOWNED HELICOPTER'S PASSENGERS AND CREW.

4. ICCS: (A) THE INDONESIAN AND CANADIAN ICCS DELEGATIONS HAVE DEFERRED THEIR RETURN TO HONG NGU PENDING ORDERS FROM THE SENIOR CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN GENERALS WHO HAVE RESERVED TO THEMSELVES FINAL APPROVAL ON DEPLOYMENT. BOTH GENERALS SPENT MOST

OF APRIL 9 IN GIO LINH IN CONNECTION WITH THE I CORPS ICCS HELICOPTER INCIDENT.

(B) MR IV COMMANDER, MGEN NGUYEN VINH NGHI, HAS OFFERED THE REGION VII ICCS THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW THREE CAPTURED NVA PRISONERS. THE INTERVIEW IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 10. ALL FOUR DELEGATIONS WILL INTERVIEW THE ALLEGED NVA SOLDIERS.

(C) ICCS REGION VII HELICOPTERS ARE PRESENTLY GROUNDED ON ORDERS FROM SAIGON. REGION VII ICCS BELIEVES THAT THEY WILL BE BACK IN THE AIR WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

5. GVN ACTIVITIES: THE VINH LONG USAID REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THAT THE VINH LONG PROVINCE CHIEF FEELS THE UPSURGE IN VC INITIATED INCIDENTS LAST WEEK WAS DESIGNED TO EMBARRASS PRESIDENT THIEU DURING HIS US VISIT. THE USAID OFFICER SAYS THAT VINH LONG PROVINCE AND ARVN UNITS ENGAGED IN LAST WEEK'S FIGHTING RECEIVED MINIMAL ARTILLERY SUPPORT IN COMPLIANCE WITH MR IV STANDING ORDERS. TROOPS AND JUNIOR OFFICERS IN VINH LONG ARE REPORTEDLY DISCOURAGED OVER THE LACK OF ARTILLERY SUPPORT WHICH THEY ATTRIBUTE CORRECTLY TO US AND GVN EFFORTS TO OBSERVE THE CEASEFIRE.

6. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENTS: BA XUYEN. GVN AND VC INITIATED ACTIVITY CONTINUES AT PRE-CEASEFIRE LEVELS. SECTOR FORCES ARE OPERATING IN THE REMAINING AREAS OF THE PROVINCE WHERE THE VC HAVE A SEMI-PERMANENT PRESENCE: CU LAU ISLAND, THE HOA TU- THANH TRI- MY XUYEN BORDER AREA, AND CENTRAL THUAN HOA. WITH THE CREATION OF THE NEW SPECIAL TACTICAL AREA ALONG THE CONTESTED

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EASTERN BA XUYEN- BAC LIEU BORDER (CAN THO 0141) GVN FORCES CAN
BE EXPECTED TO ACCELERATE THE " SEEK AND DESTROY" POLICY TOWARDS VC
MINI- BASE AREAS ADOPTED SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER THE CEASEFIRE. VC
ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY ATTACKS BY FIRE ON
OUTPOSTS, BOOBY TRAP INCIDENTS, AND OCCASIONAL AMBUSHES OF GVN
TERRITORIAL FORCES IN OR NEAR VC AREAS OF INFLUENCE.
BARNES UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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